

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: December 20, 2007
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WSP Bomb Squad Opens Christmas Gift

(Olympia) – Washington State Patrol and the U.S. Postal Service investigated a suspicious package sent to Washington Supreme Court Justice Richard Sanders that turned out to be an innocent Christmas gift.

On December 20, 2007, between 4:30 a.m. and 5:00 a.m., while x-raying postal packages the General Administration Consolidated Mail Services on Cherry Street, Olympia, Wash., observed a package addressed to Justice Richard Sanders that appeared to contain an object that looked like a hand grenade.

The Olympia Police Department and the Washington State Patrol were notified and the WSP Bomb Unit was deployed to the Cherry Street location. The area around the location of the package was evacuated, but the whole building was not.

The WSP Bomb Unit removed the package and transported it to the WSP Academy in Shelton. The bomb unit opened the package with water shot from a water cannon. The bomb unit determined that the object was a novelty gift.

The U.S. Postal Service is the lead investigators of this incident. The U.S. Postal Service Inspectors contacted the person who sent the package and determined that he was a friend of Justice Sanders and the package he sent was a Christmas gift.

Postal Inspectors closed the case indicating there are no criminal charges.

The U.S. Postal Service Public Information Officer is Kimalie Hollowman, she can be reached at (206) 442-6336, or by cell at (206) 396-3024.

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